



Requirements and Suggestions for Honeybee Shipments Entering California 2005/2006 Pollination Season



Inspections

All honeybee shipments entering California are subject to two inspections. The first is a cursory inspection at the border station. The second is a more detailed inspection, at destination. These inspections are necessary because hitchhiking pests - especially red imported fire ant (RIFA) and noxious weeds - are often found associated with bee colonies.

Certification Program

This year CDFA is pleased to implement a pilot voluntary apiary certification program. Shipments entering California with certification, issued by a regulatory official in the state of origin, stating that the shipment is free of RIFA and other pests, will be subject to less stringent border and destination inspection requirements than shipments without certification. Under this new program certified shipments will have a tolerance of five or fewer hitchhiking worker ants without being rejected at the border. Additionally, certified shipments that are pest free,



Diffuse Knabweed



Red Imported Fire Ant

will be allowed to offload at destination without waiting for clearance from the County Agricultural Commissioner. Although this program is not mandatory, and certification is not required to enter California, beekeepers are urged to have their colonies inspected and certified to expedite entry. Contact your state apiarist to determine if they are participating in the pilot program.

What to Expect

At the Border Station

Inspectors at California's Border Stations will check the exterior colonies and pallets for RIFA, noxious weeds and any other significant pests, dirt and debris, or anything else that could harbor pests. If any pests are found on uncertified shipments or more than five worker ants or other pests on certified shipments, the colonies and pallets must be cleaned prior to entering the state. Following pest management practices, obtaining certification, and taking care when loading the bees to assure they are free from soil, weeds, and other debris, will help avoid most problems at the border.

If no pests are detected at the border station, the shipment will be placed under a QUARANTINE HOLD NOTICE and allowed to proceed to destination where it will be subject to inspection by the County Agricultural Department. To issue this notice the driver must provide exact destination information about the shipment. This is required so that the appropriate county can be notified of the impending arrival of the shipment.



Bee Colonies Being Inspected at Truckee

Drivers should be prepared to give the exact physical address of the location where the colonies will be placed (P.O. Boxes are not acceptable), the number of colonies, and the State of most recent origin. Township and range information may be substituted for a physical address. Apiary health certificates are not required to clear shipments at the border station.

At Destination

The driver or owner will be instructed to contact the county inspector, via phone, at destination - Uncertified shipments may not be unloaded until permission to do so is given by the county inspector.

Watering the Bees

Please be aware that some sources of fresh water in certain locations used for watering bees could conflict with other users of the area. Some locations that have been used for years to place bees have now been encroached upon by residential developments. Some jurisdictions in California may consider bees that water in residential areas, such as in a backyard swimming pool, are a nuisance if they get complaints from fearful residents.

Bee Posting Requirements

California law (Section 29046(a), Food and Agriculture Code) requires that bee colonies be "posted." This means that each location where bees are placed must have markings that designate the person or persons responsible for the bees. This requirement can be met by markings on boxes or a conspicuous sign that includes a name, address and phone number where the owner or his/her representative can be easily reached.

For more information contact:

**California Department of Food and Agriculture
Pest Exclusion Branch:
(916) 653-1440**